

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:MB
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S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, PFOR, ABLD

SUBJECT: MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON EMBASSY COMPLEXES

1. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY-DESIGNATE MOOSE MET WITH SOVIET
AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN MARCH 10 TO PROPOSE NEGOTIATIONS
IN MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION.
MOOSE HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF SITE EXCHANGE DURING
SECRETARY'S TRIP IF SOVIETS APPROVE OUR PLANS, PROVIDE
MORE SPECIFIC WRITTEN COMMITMENTS ON IMPROVED EMBASSY
FACILITIES, AND AGREE TO MORE ACCEPTABLE FORMULA ON
COSTS. DOBRYNIN'S INITIAL REACTION WAS NEGATIVE, BUT
HE DID PROPOSE THAT AMBASSADOR APPROACH KORNIYENKO AND
SUGGEST TALKS. AMBASSADOR SHOULD INDICATE US WILLINGNESS
TO SEND TEAM IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING ISSUES.
END SUMMARY.

2. MOOSE SAID SECRETARY HAD ASKED HIM TO RAISE EMBASSY
CONSTRUCTION ISSUE WITH DOBRYNIN TO SEE IF PROGRESS
COULD BE MADE BEFORE TRIP. US IS PREPARED TO TRY
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AGAIN TO REACH AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT BOTH SIDES
TO MOVE AHEAD AND AVOID RECIPROCAL FOOT DRAGGING.
MOOSE SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD BEEN HOLDING US UP IN
MOSCOW AND WE ARE FOUR MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE BECAUSE

US FINAL PLANS NOT APPROVED. KORNIYENKO'S RECENT
COMMENTS TO TOON HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT PROMPT

ACTION COULD BE EXPECTED.

3. MOOSE SAID US PREPARED TO SEND NEGOTIATING TEAM TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY OR RECEIVE SOVIET TEAM IN WASHINGTON. GOAL OF TALKS WOULD BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT EARLY SITE EXCHANGE, PERHAPS DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. US WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR US COMPLEX, MORE SPECIFIC WRITTEN COMMITMENTS ON IMPROVED EMBASSY FACILITIES, AND MORE SPECIFIC FORMULA ON COSTS FOR OUR COMPLEX.

4. MOOSE SAID SOUNDINGS WITH KEY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES INDICATED THEY WILL APPROVE AN APPROACH WITH THESE ELEMENTS IN IT.

5. DOBRYNIN RESPONDED THAT US WAS ON WRONG PATH IN PROPOSING DEALINGS ON "BUREAUCRATIC" LEVEL. ONCE SOVIET SIDE HAS PERMISSION TO PROCEED IN US, US EMBASSY WILL GET WHAT IT NEEDS IN MOSCOW. DOBRYNIN ADMITTED "OFF THE RECORD" THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN ARGUING AGAINST MEETING US MOSCOW NEEDS BECAUSE THEIR CONSTRUCTION HERE IS HELD UP. GROMYKO PLANS TO RAISE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY IN MOSCOW AND US SHOULD COUNT ON WORD OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER RATHER THAN WRITTEN PROTOCOLS WHICH US AND USSR COULD ARGUE ABOUT.

6. ON COST ISSUE DOBRYNIN SAID US BEING UNREALISTIC IN ASKING FOR FIRM FIGURES NOW. US CONSTRUCTION FIRMS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE SIMILAR "GUARANTEES" AND PRICE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET COMPLEX HAS ESCALATED UPWARDS SEVERAL TIMES. REFERRING TO SOVIET NOVEMBER 3 AIDE MEMOIRE, DOBRYNIN STRESSED THAT US ALREADY PROVIDED WITH ROUGH COST ESTIMATES. (MOOSE RAISED COST OVERRUNS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER AS EXAMPLE OF WHY THIS APPROACH NOT ADEQUATE AND WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO CONGRESS.)

7. DOBRYNIN COMPLAINED ABOUT SECURITY, HOUSING, AND MORALE PROBLEMS OF HIS WASHINGTON STAFF AND MOOSE NOTED US MORALE AND HOUSING PROBLEMS IN MOSCOW.

8. DOBRYNIN CONCEDED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR TOON TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH KORNIYENKO ONCE MORE WITH A VIEW TO CLARIFYING MOST RECENT SOVIET PROPOSAL. HE ALSO AGREED TO MOOSE'S SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEND US EXPERTS TO MOSCOW TO "ADVISE TOON IN HIS DISCUSSIONS." HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE WELL TO

MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO SEE WHAT COULD BE

ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HOWEVER, HE SHOWED LITTLE FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUES AT STAKE AND ARGUED THAT WE WERE ASKING FOR IMMEDIATE BENEFITS WHILE THEY WOULD GET NOTHING DURING THE TWO YEARS IT WOULD TAKE TO BUILD THEIR RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX.

9. IT APPEARED FROM DOBRYNIN'S COMMENTS THAT SOVIET SIDE PINS ITS HOPE ON REACHING AGREEMENT AT GROMYKO/SECRETARY LEVEL DURING VISIT FOR SOVIETS TO PROCEED BASED ON ASSURANCES PROVIDED IN THEIR NOVEMBER 3 AIDE MEMOIRE.

10. AMBASSADOR SHOULD APPROACH KORNIYENKO ASAP AND PROPOSE TALKS BEFORE SECRETARY'S TRIP. US PREPARED TO SEND EXPERTS WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION OF US PLANS, DISCUSS COST FORMULAS, ETC. IN RETURN FOR APPROVAL OF US PLANS, -SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPROVED EMBASSY FACILITIES AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMULA ON COSTS WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AGREE TO SITE EXCHANGE DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. BUT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE TO SITE EXCHANGE ON BASIS OF SOVIET NOVEMBER 3 AIDE-MEMOIRE. IF TALKS ARE TO BE PRODUCTIVE, SOVIET SIDE MUST BE PREPARED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN IT HAS BEEN TO DATE.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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